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Active protection of rare amphibian and reptile species in the Natura 2000 sites in Europe

LIFE17 NAT/PL/000011

BASIC INFORMATION

Emys_PL_LIFE

The strategic goal of the Project

Improvement of the conservation status of the European pond turtle *Emys orbicularis* and the European fire-bellied toad *Bombina bombina* in five Natura 2000 areas in Poland and Denmark.

Specific objectives

- Increasing the area and improving the conservation status of breeding and living habitats of the European pond turtle and the European fire-bellied toad.
- Increasing population size and prevention of extinction and isolation of the European pond turtle and the European fire-bellied toad.
- Increasing the knowledge and ecological awareness level of local communities concerning protection of rare species of amphibians and reptiles.

European pond turtle *Emys orbicularis*

Main activities

- Construction of a dam in Nowe Sady (Mazurska Ostoja Żółwia Baranowo) to increase up to 2.3 ha of the habitat of the European pond turtle and the breeding habitat of the European fire-bellied toad.
- Construction of three systems of passages for small vertebrate animals to eliminate migratory barriers isolating populations of the European pond turtle (Mazurska Ostoja Żółwia Baranowo, Ostoja Piska, Ujście Ilanki).

- Revitalization of 62 ponds for amphibians, including the European fire-bellied toad (Romincka Forest, Sydfynske Øhav - Denmark) and 2.75 ha living habitats of the European pond turtle (Mazurska Ostoja Żółwia Baranowo).
- Construction of 24 hibernacula (wintering sites) for amphibians, including the European fire-bellied toad (Romincka Forest, Sydfynske Øhav - Denmark).
- Protection of 1.4 ha of the European pond turtle breeding habitats (Mazurska Ostoja Żółwia Baranowo).
- Restoration of the European fire-bellied toad population on Skarø Island securing preservation of genetic variability of the species in Denmark (Sydfynske Øhav - Denmark).

European fire-bellied toad *Bombina bombina*

Expected results of the Project

- Improvement of the conservation status of the European pond turtle breeding habitats from 0.4 ha to 1.4 ha.
- Increasing of the habitat area of the European pond turtle from 0.09 ha to 0.45 ha and from 0.1 ha to 2.3 ha.
- Recreation of 62 breeding sites for amphibians, including the European fire-bellied toad.
- Construction of 24 hibernation sites for amphibians, including the European fire-bellied toad.
- Elimination of three existing barriers in the European pond turtle migration corridors.

The Project is co-financed by

- European Commission under the LIFE Financial Instrument
- National Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management (NFEP&WM)
- Regional Fund for Environmental Protection and Water Management in Olsztyn (RFEP&WM)

Project implementation period

July 2, 2018 - December 31, 2023 (66 months)

Area covered by the Project

- Natura 2000 site „Mazurska Ostoja Żółwia Baranowo" PLH280055
- Natura 2000 site „Ostoja Piska" PLH280048
- Natura 2000 site „Puszcza Romincka" PLH280005
- Natura 2000 site „Ujście Ilanki" PLH090015
- Natura 2000 site „Sydfynske Øhav" DK008X201

The Project budget

- Total budget: 2.765.954 €
- Co-financing from the European Commission: € 1.659.572
- Co-financing from NFEP&WM: 825.255 €
- Co-financing from RFEP&WM in Olsztyn: 18.928 €

The Project beneficiaries

- Warmian-Masurian Voivodeship - Poland (Coordinating Beneficiary)
- "Man and Nature" Association - Poland (Associated Beneficiary)
- Amphi International ApS - Denmark (Associated Beneficiary)

More information on the Project implementation is available on the Beneficiaries' websites:

➲ **http://pkpr.life17.pl**

➲ **http://czlowiekiprzyroda.eu/ochrona-plazow-gadow-natura-2000**

➲ **https://amphi.dk**

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